

Alternative Education

An Alternative Education to meet the educational needs of Michigan's missing students

According to recent census data and school records database, our unschooled children are at an intolerable level in Michigan. Students are on the streets of Michigan that are being neglected and at risk of irreparable harm, an alternative education opportunity must be provided for these children to learn in a safe environment. The numbers are devastating.

According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, in 2002 we had a total of 1,854,540 students enrolled in public, nonpublic and home-schooled students in Michigan. 2,067,317 school age students were accounted for in the last census, this leaves 212,277 students not in school, official dropouts account for 86,671 leaving 126,106 school age students unaccounted for in our communities.

We have an obligation to provide an educational prospect for these children that will provide their requirements of a safe and caring learning atmosphere. These numbers do not reflect the thousands more students in our schools who are at risk of failing and dropping out of our schools before graduation.

Michigan has a number of excellent schools providing an alternative to traditional learning, but far too few. Last year 27,000 students were reported attending alternative schools, barely representing 10% of the students identified as not receiving any educational experiences. This waste of children's lives cannot be allowed to go disregarded.

Lack of action will result in the obvious and it is irresponsible not to make a concerted effort to make our schools a place of instruction and safety for the underserved students of our state.